

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 341 033 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 01.03.2000

(21) Application No 9914254.9

(22) Date of Filing 18.06.1999

(30) Priority Data

(31) 98024960 (32) 29.06.1998 (33) KR

(71) Applicant(s)

LG Electronics Inc
(Incorporated in the Republic of Korea)
20 Yoido-Dong, Youngdungpo-Gu, Seoul,
Republic of Korea

(72) Inventor(s)

Yong-Jin Cho

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Gilburn & Strode
20 Red Lion Street, LONDON, WC1R 4PJ,
United Kingdom

(51) INT CL⁷

H04N 9/73 5/58

(52) UK CL (Edition R)

H4F FGC FHL

(56) Documents Cited

EP 0863677 A1 EP 0700218 A2 JP 100174017 A

(58) Field of Search

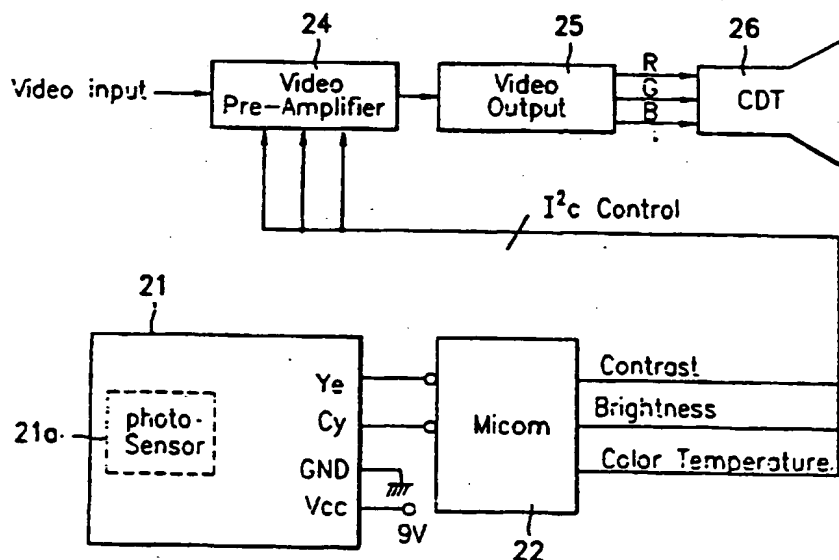
UK CL (Edition Q) H4F FGC FGXX FHL FHM FJX
INT CL⁶ G09G 1/00 1/16 1/28 5/10 , H04N 5/58 9/73
Online databases: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

(54) Abstract Title

Auto-adjustment of colour temperature and brightness of a display

(57) A device and method automatically adjust the brightness, contrast and colour temperature of a display according to the brightness and colour temperature of ambient light, and according to individual preferences by taking into account the brightness and colour temperature initially set by a user. Particularly, the present invention includes a photo sensor to detect the environmental illumination and a micro processor utilising the detected data to appropriately adjust at least one of brightness, contrast and colour temperature with respect to a user preference.

FIG.2



GB 2 341 033 A

FIG.1

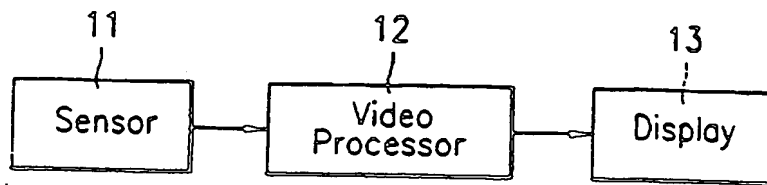


FIG.2

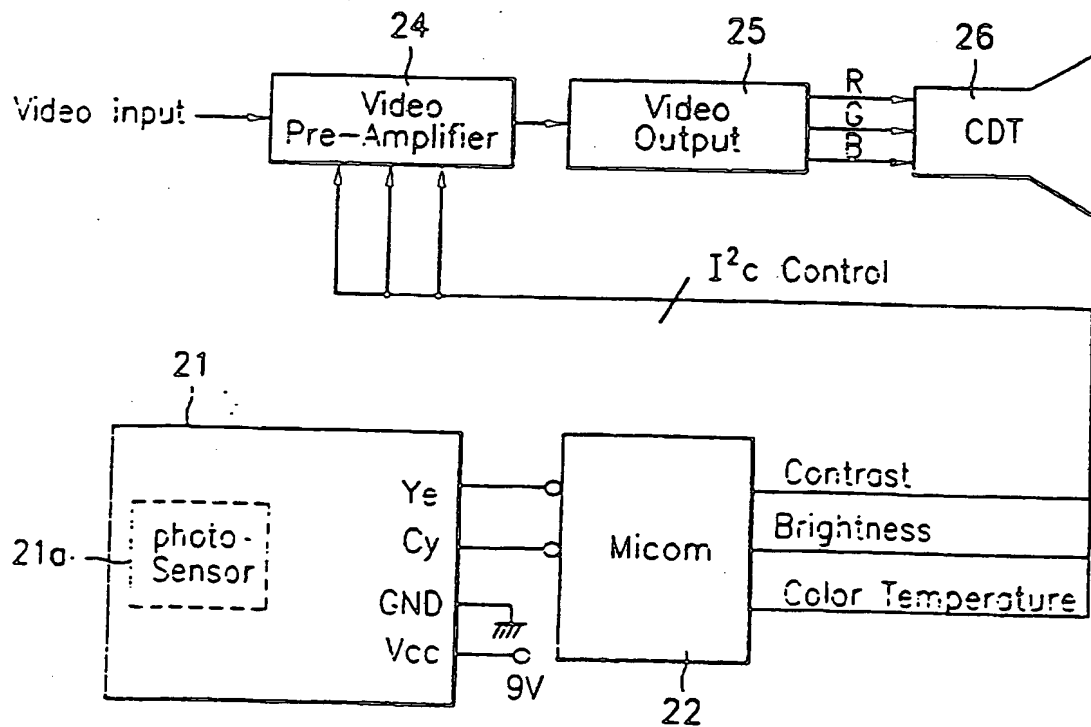


FIG.3

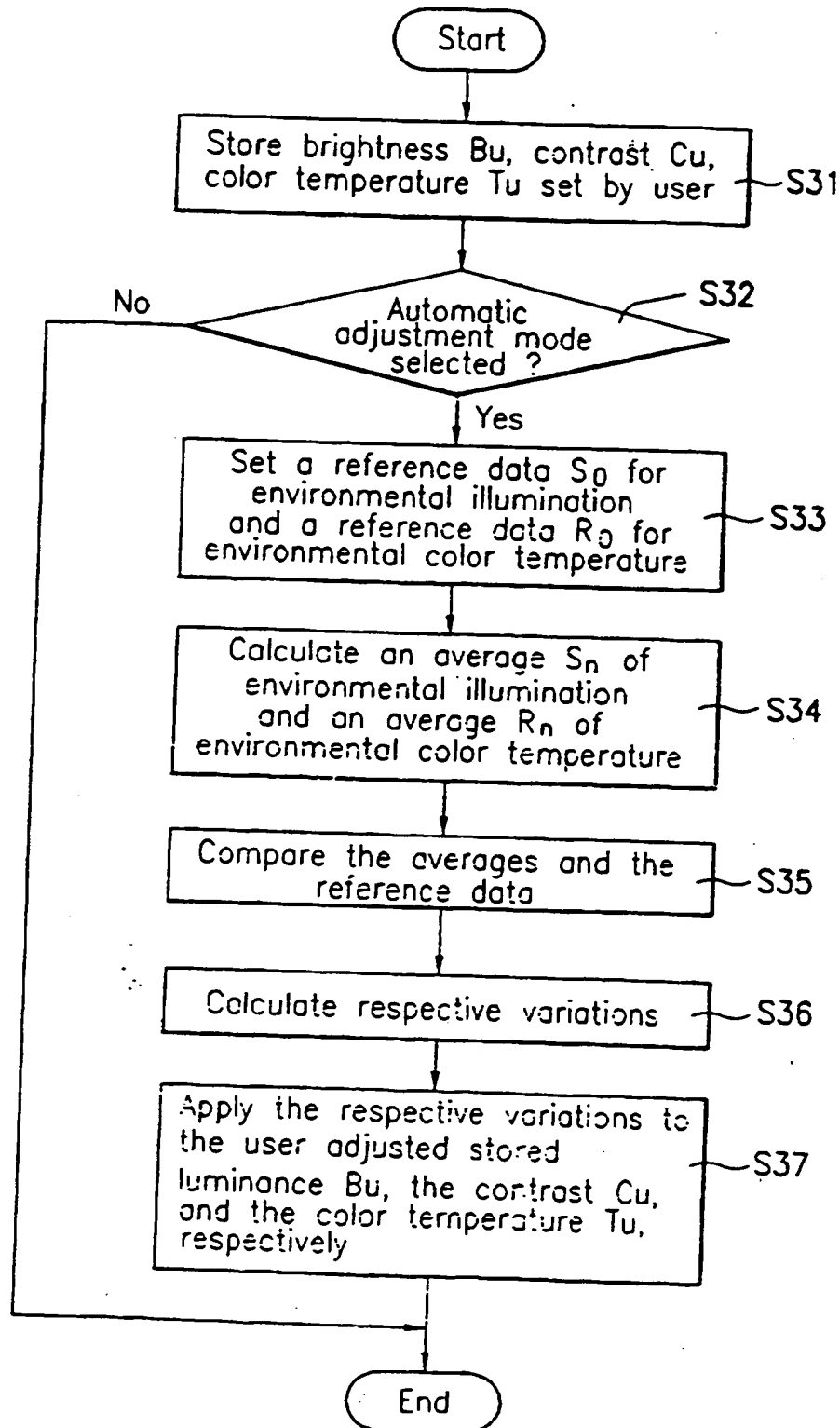
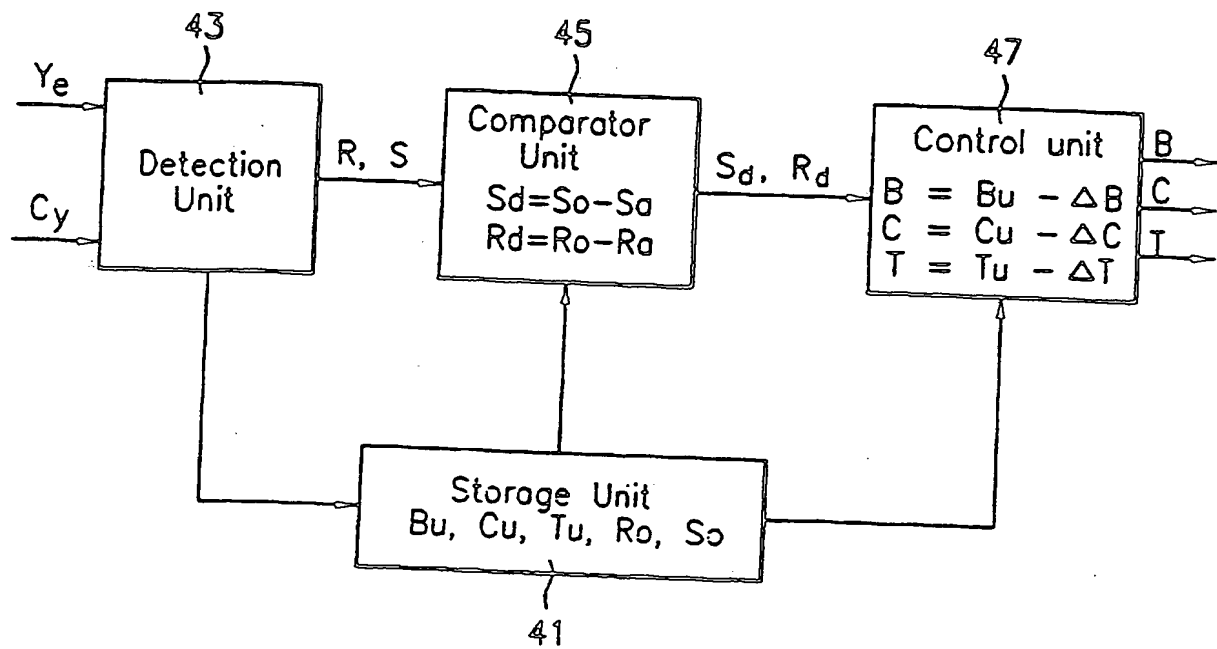


FIG. 4



BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to display devices, and more particularly to a device and method for automatically adjusting image conditions on a display. The present invention automatically adjusts the image condition with consideration of a condition set initially by a user when the brightness around the display and color temperature vary.

Background of the Related Art

Ceaseless developments of technologies for automatic adjustment of a displayed image condition have been made to provide a convenient and better viewing environment for a user. The technology for automatically adjusting the image condition is applied to displays such as a television (TV) or a computer monitor, and may be implemented in variety of forms. For such displays, the image conditions of brightness, contrast, and color temperature may be automatically adjusted according to an environmental luminance and color temperature utilizing a pre-established look-up table.

The look-up table is established by experimentally obtaining image conditions, i.e. contrast and brightness with respect to outputs of color signals detected from actual environmental luminance and color temperatures, and color signals from theoretical brightness and color temperatures. The look-up table is stored in a memory, and according to a detected environmental luminance and color temperature, a contrast and brightness of an image corresponding to the detected values are output from the look-up table. Thus, the contrast and brightness of the image is adjusted based upon the detected color signals of an actual environment.

Generally, a TV is viewed by a user from a certain distance during the evenings after

5 sunset under an illumination, while a computer monitor is viewed by a user from a close range during the day in an office. Thus, the image conditions for the TV and the monitor are different. Also, a slightly poor focus and resolution does not greatly affect watching the TV because moving pictures are displayed on the TV. However, the focus and resolution affects the viewing of a monitor because most of the work on the monitor is conducted by viewing a still image such as a text or graphic. Thus, the required image condition for the monitor varies, depending on the work.

10 Although an image condition is adjusted to an optimal condition for an environmental brightness and color temperature, because the adjustment is made utilising a look-up table, an image of high quality cannot be provided. Particularly, the adjustment is made automatically according to a preset data without any consideration to a user's preferences or set values, which results in differences between the adjusted values and the actual environment conditions.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to solve or at least reduce the problems and disadvantages of the related art.

20 An object of the present invention is to provide a device and method for automatically adjusting image conditions in a display allowing an optimal image condition regardless of varied environmental luminance conditions.

The present invention is set forth in the appended claims.

25 To achieve the objects and in accordance with the purposes of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a display includes a color signal sensing unit sensing a color signal of an environmental luminance around a display; a recognition unit processing the color signal of an environmental luminance sensed by the color signal sensing unit and recognizing an environmental

brightness and an environmental color temperature of the display; a storage unit storing a brightness, a contrast and a color temperature of an image set by a user, and the environmental brightness and the environmental color temperature of the display recognised by the recognition unit; a comparison unit calculating
5 an average of the environmental brightness and the environmental color temperature of the display for a predetermined period, and comparing the average data to a reference data of the environmental brightness and environmental color temperature of the display stored in the storage unit to obtain variations of the calculated average data; and a control unit storing the
10 environmental brightness and environmental color temperature recognised through the recognition unit as the reference data when the user selects an automatic adjusting mode, and reflecting the respective variations of the brightness and the color temperature calculated by the comparison unit to the brightness, the contrast, and the color temperature of the image set by the user,
15 thereby adjusting an image condition.

For the purposes of the present invention, "color temperature" means that temperature to which a black body radiator must be raised in order that the light it emits may match a given light source in color. As preferred in accordance with the invention, color temperature is determined, or at least an
20 approximation thereto, by a ratio of colors within the environmental light. As preferred the colors are cyan and yellow, but other colors may be envisaged.

In the preferred embodiment, the color signal sensing unit may be a photosensor providing two outputs of cyan and yellow. Also, the recognition unit recognises a sum of the cyan and the yellow from the color signal sensing
25 unit as the environmental brightness of the display and a ratio of the cyan to the yellow from the color signal sensing unit as the environmental color temperature of the display.

A method for automatically adjusting image conditions of a display according to the present invention includes (1) storing a brightness, a contrast, and a color temperature of an image set by a user; (2) determining execution of an automatic adjustment mode in which the brightness, the contrast, and the color temperature of the image are adjusted automatically according to a variation of an environmental brightness; (3) upon determining an execution of the automatic adjustment mode in (2), sensing the environmental brightness and the color temperature, storing the sensed environmental brightness and the color temperature as the reference data of the environmental brightness and the color temperature, and calculating the average data on the environmental brightness and the color temperature for a predetermined period; (4) comparing the average data on the environmental brightness and the color temperature calculated in (3) to the reference data on the environmental brightness and the color temperature, and calculating respective variations, and (5) reflecting the respective variations calculated in (4) to the brightness, the contrast, and the color temperature set by the user in (1), to adjust an image condition.

The execution of automatic adjustment mode in (2) includes both an execution of automatic adjustment mode in which the brightness and the contrast of the image are adjusted, and an execution of automatic adjustment mode in which the color temperature of the image is adjusted, wherein the user is allowed to select at least one of the automatic adjustment modes. Also, the reflection in (5) further includes the step of gradually adjusting the image condition by taking a linear intermediate value when a difference of the value set by the user and a value to which the relative variation is reflected is over a preset level.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described in detail with reference to the following drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like elements wherein:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a display according to the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a computer monitor according to the present invention; and

Fig. 3 is a flow chart showing a method for automatically adjusting an image condition of a computer monitor according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a micro processor in Fig. 2.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

15 Fig. 1 shows a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a display according to the present invention including a sensor unit 11 sensing an environmental brightness and color temperature, and outputting the sensed data; a video processor 12 receiving and digitizing the output signals from the sensor unit 11 to obtain the environmental brightness and color temperature around the display, and adjusting the brightness, contrast, and color temperature of an image utilizing the obtained data in consideration of the brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by a user; and a display unit 13 displaying the adjusted image on a display.

20 In the preferred embodiment, the sensor unit 11 is a photo sensor and the video processor 12 includes a micro processor. Also, the video processor 12 automatically adjusts the image for

displays, such as a TV or a computer monitor, according to the output signals from the photo sensor utilizing a relative variation of brightness, contrast and color temperature in combination with the brightness, contrast and color temperature set initially by a user according to the user viewing preferences.

5 Fig. 2 shows a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a computer monitor according to the present invention including a sensor unit 21 sensing an environmental brightness and color temperature, and outputting the sensed data; a micro processor 22 receiving and digitizing the output signals from the sensor unit 21 to obtain the environmental brightness and color temperature around the monitor, and outputting control signals to adjust the brightness,
10 contrast, and color temperature of an image utilizing the obtained data in consideration of the brightness contrast and color temperature selected by a user; a video pre-amplifier 24 amplifying a video signal to adjust the image according to the control of the micro processor 22; a video output unit 25 processing the adjusted image for display; and a color display tube (CDT) display 26 displaying the adjusted image.

15 As in the sensor unit 11 of Fig. 1, the sensor unit 21 is a photo sensor 21a in the preferred embodiment and outputs the sensed data by two electrical signals as cyan (Cy) and yellow (Ye). The cyan Cy being sensitive to blue and the yellow Ye being sensitive to red, the output signals Cy and Ye are processed through an analog-to-digital converter in a video processor such as the micro processor 22, to determine the brightness and the color temperature around the monitor.
20 Particularly, the environmental brightness is obtained as a sum of the outputs (Cy+Ye) from the photosensor 21a, utilizing the sensitivity of cyan Cy to blue light and the sensitivity of yellow Ye to red light. Similarly, the environmental color temperature is obtained as a ratio of cyan Cy to the Yellow Ye (Cy/Ye).

Generally, when light from an incandescent lamp or an incandescent lamp and a fluorescent lamp are present in the surrounding environment, an output of cyan Cy is lower than an output of yellow Ye . However, when light primarily from a fluorescent lamp is present in the surrounding environment, the output of cyan Cy is equal to or greater than the output of yellow Ye . Moreover, when natural light is primarily present, the output of cyan Cy is greater than the output of yellow Ye . Utilizing the various reaction of cyan and yellow to light, the sum ($Cy+Ye$) and the ratio (Cy/Ye) of cyan Cy and yellow Ye can be used as the environmental brightness and the environmental color temperature, respectively.

In the preferred embodiment of a device for automatically adjusting an image condition of a TV, the sensor unit is also a photo sensor as described with reference to Fig. 2 and the signals Cy and Ye are processed through an analog-to-digital converter in a video processor such as the micro processor 22, to determine the brightness and the color temperature around the monitor and to adjust the brightness, contrast, and color temperature of an image in consideration of the brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by a user. The image with the adjusted condition is similarly processed as the image for the CDT and is displayed on a TV screen. A method for automatically adjusting an image condition in a display will be explained with reference to Fig. 3.

Fig. 3 illustrates a flow chart of a method for automatically adjusting an image condition of a display according to the present invention. Generally, different users have varying preferences for viewing a display, and initially sets the brightness, contrast and color temperature of the display. Thus, when a user manually sets a brightness, contrast and color temperature of an image in a manual regulation mode, the micro processor 22 stores the brightness Bu , the contrast Cu , and the color temperature Tu of the image set by the user in a storage unit (step

S31). A determination is made whether the user has selected an auto-regulation mode (step S32), and if selected, an environmental brightness reference data S_0 and a color temperature reference data R_0 are set (step S33).

5 Upon selecting the auto-regulation mode, the brightness, contrast and the color temperature of the image is automatically regulated to maintain a level equivalent to the preference set by the user, when the illumination of the surrounding environment changes. Thus, the user would be able to view an image consistently at a condition set initially according to the user's preference, even if the illumination were to change in the surrounding environment. It should be noted that the preference set by the user would be the default setting of the display if
10 the user did not manually set a brightness, contrast and color temperature.

An explanation of how an image condition is regulated using the cyan Cy and the yellow Ye will be given with reference to equations below.

$$S_0 = Cy_0 + Ye_0 \quad (1a)$$

$$R_0 = \frac{Cy_0}{Ye_0} \quad (1b)$$

15 As expressed in equations (1a) and (1b), a reference data of an environmental brightness S_0 is set as a sum of cyan Cy and yellow Ye received from the sensor unit 21, and a reference data of an environmental color temperature R_0 is set as a ratio Cy/Ye of cyan Cy to yellow Ye received from the sensor unit 21.

$$Sa = \frac{S}{n} \quad (2a)$$

$$Ra = \frac{R}{n} \quad (2b)$$

where, $S = S_1 + S_2 + S_3, \dots + S_{n-1} + S_n$, $S_n = Cy_n + Ye_n$, and

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + R_3, \dots + R_{n-1} + R_n, R_n = Cy_n/Ye_n.$$

Utilizing equations (2a) and (2b), the average of the environmental brightness S_a and the average of the environmental color temperature R_a are obtained from the cyan C_y and yellow Y_e output by the sensor unit 1, for a predetermined period of time (step S34).

$$S_d = S_o - S_a \quad (3a)$$

$$R_d = R_o - R_a \quad (3b)$$

After obtaining the average values of the environmental brightness and environmental color temperature, S_a and R_a are compared to the reference data S_o and R_o respectively, as shown in equations (3a) and (3b) (step S35). The results of the comparison are utilized in equations (4a) - (4c) below to determine the relative amounts of adjustment necessary in the image condition, with respect to the preference of the user (step S36).

$$\Delta B = X \left(\frac{S_d}{\Delta V_s} \right) \quad (4a)$$

$$\Delta C = W \left(\frac{S_d}{\Delta V_s} \right) \quad (4b)$$

$$\Delta R = Y \left(\frac{R_d}{\Delta V_R} \right) \quad (4c)$$

In equation 4, ΔB , ΔC and ΔR are the relative amounts of adjustment or relative variances for the image condition. In equation (4b), ΔV_s is a value of the variation in the environmental brightness, i.e. the sum $C_y + Y_e$ obtained from the output of the photosensor 21a, when the illumination in the surrounding environment changes by a preset level. In the preferred embodiment, ΔV_s is the variation when the illumination changes by 50 Lux. The value of ΔV_s is predetermined and stored in a storage unit within the micro processor 22.

In equations (4a) and (4c), ΔV_R is a value of the variation in the color temperature of the environmental brightness, i.e. the ratio C_y/Y_e obtained from the output of the photosensor 21a,

when the color temperature in the surrounding environment changes by a preset level. In the preferred embodiment, ΔV_R is the variation when the color temperature changes by 3000K. The value of ΔV_R is likewise predetermined and stored in a storage unit within the micro processor 22. Also, ΔV_R may be stored in the same or a different storage unit from ΔV_S , and both ΔV_R and ΔV_S may be stored in the same or different storage unit from Bu, Cu, and Tu in step S31.

The coefficients X, W, and Y are predetermined values representing the amounts of adjustment made by a typical user on the brightness, the contrast and color temperature of an image, respectively, when the environmental illumination and color temperature varies. For example, if a typical user initially sets the contrast to 85 in an environmental illumination of 200 Lux, but adjusts the contrast to 95 when the environment becomes brighter to 300 Lux and adjusts the contrast to 80 when the environment becomes darker to 150 Lux, the variation of the contrast for every 50 Lux is 5, i.e. $W = 5$. The coefficients X and Y can similarly be obtained by determining the brightness and color temperature preferred by a typical user as the brightness and color temperature varies, respectively.

Moreover, if one or more objects, such a piece of furniture or plant, are close to the photosensor 21a during the calculation of the relative variations, the two outputs Cy and Ye from the photosensor 21a may slightly vary depending upon the material and color of the object regardless of any actual variation in the environmental illumination. Therefore, the effects of object placement, although minimal, may be taken into consideration during the determination of the coefficients X, W and Z by varying the placement of different objects, as a variable, with respect to the photosensor 21a before obtaining X, W and Z. In the preferred embodiment, the coefficients $X = 3$, $W = 5$ and $Y = 1000$.

Once the relative variations ΔB , ΔC and ΔR are obtained through the above process, the

level of adjustment for an optimal condition of the image with respect to brightness, contrast and color temperature is determined by equations (5a) - (5c) below (step S37).

$$B = B_u + \Delta B \quad (5a)$$

$$C = C_u + \Delta C \quad (5b)$$

$$T = T_u + \Delta R \quad (5c)$$

In equation 5, B is a brightness of the image after completion of an image condition adjustment, C is a contrast of the image after completion of an image condition adjustment, and T is a color temperature of the image after completion of an image condition adjustment. Because the brightness, contrast and color temperature are adjusted with consideration of the individual preferences of users by utilizing the relative variations ΔB , ΔC and ΔT , an optimal image for each individual user may be achieved.

As discussed above, a micro processor determines the brightness and the color temperature around the monitor and to adjust the brightness, contrast, and color temperature of an image in consideration of the brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by a user. Particularly, Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of a micro processor including a storage unit 41 storing the brightness B_u , contrast C_u , and color temperature T_u input by a user, and storing the reference environmental brightness S_0 and color temperature R_0 ; a detection unit 43 determining the brightness and color temperature around the monitor as $(C_y + Y_e)$ and (C_y/Y_e) respectively; a comparator unit 45 calculating an average brightness S_a and color temperature R_a in the environment for a predetermined time period according to equation 2, and comparing S_a and R_a to S_0 and R_0 from the storage unit according to equation 3; and a control unit 47 determining the relative variances ΔB , ΔC and ΔR utilizing the compared values S_d and R_d according to equation 4, and outputting control signals to adjust the image by the calculated relative variances ΔB , ΔC

and ΔR and B_u , C_u and T_u stored in the storage unit, respectively, according to equation 5.

Therefore, in the present device and method for automatically adjusting an image condition, the brightness B_u , contrast C_u , and color temperature T_u input by a user are stored; the average values S_a and R_a are compared to the reference values S_o and R_o of the environmental brightness and color temperature, respectively, to calculate the difference S_d and R_d according to equations (3a) and (3b). The calculated differences S_d and R_d are utilized to calculate the relative variations ΔB , ΔC and ΔR of the brightness, contrast and the color temperature according to equations (4a) - (4c). Finally, the image is adjusted by an amount of the relative variances in addition to the stored brightness B_u , contrast C_u , and color temperature T_u .

Also, abrupt or sharp changes of the brightness and the color temperature of the image, which would occur when the average data of a predetermined period differs greatly from a user set values, may cause fatigue in the eyes of the user. As a result, the brightness, contrast and color temperature of the image are increased or decreased gradually during the image condition adjustment in the preferred embodiment. Moreover, a user may only want an automatic adjustment of brightness and contrast or an automatic adjustment of color temperature. Accordingly, an automatic regulation mode for the brightness and contrast of the image, and an automatic regulation mode for the color temperature of the image may be separately provided for the user selection.

As discussed above, the device and method for automatically adjusting the image condition of a display according to the present invention facilitates an automatic adjustment of an image, taking into consideration a variation which may occur due to a brightness, contrast and color temperature set initially by a user. Thus, the present invention provides an optimal image condition preferred by individual users with respect to environmental brightness and color

temperature. The present device and method for automatically adjusting the image condition in a display especially provide an optimal image condition desired by individual users when the present invention is applied to TV and a computer monitor, requiring different image conditions depending on an environment of use.

5 The foregoing embodiments are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention. The present teachings can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

What is Claimed is:

1. A device for automatically adjusting an image condition comprising:
a sensor means for sensing an environmental brightness and environmental color
5 temperature, and outputting the sensed data;
a video processor for receiving and digitizing the output signals from the sensor
means to obtain the environmental brightness and environmental color temperature,
and for automatically adjusting at least one of the brightness, contrast, and color
10 temperature of an image utilising the obtained data in consideration of at least one of
brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by a user; and
a display means for displaying the adjusted image on a display.
2. A device of claim 1, wherein the sensor means is a photo sensor for outputting
the sensed data as at least two electrical signals; and wherein the video processor is
15 arranged to digitize the at least two electrical signals to determine the environmental
brightness and the color temperature.
3. A device of claim 2, wherein the photo sensor outputs electrical signals of cyan
and yellow; and wherein the video processor determines the environmental brightness
20 by summing the outputs of cyan and yellow, and determines the environmental color
temperature by taking the ratio of the output cyan to the output yellow.
4. A device of any preceding claim, wherein the video processor comprises:
a storage means for storing the brightness, contrast and color temperature
25 selected by the user;
and
a micro processor for determining the environmental brightness and color
temperature, and for determining relative variances of brightness, contrast and color
temperature according to the determined environmental brightness and color
30 temperature, said micro processor being arranged to output control signals to

automatically adjust at least one of the brightness, contrast and color temperature of the image based upon the relative variances and the stored brightness, contrast and color temperature.

- 5 5. A device of any preceding claim, wherein the display means displays the image on a color display tube; and wherein the video processor further comprises:

 a video pre-amplifier amplifying a video signal according to the control signals output by the micro processor; and

 a video output unit processing the amplified video signal and displaying the
10 processed video signal on the color display tube.

6. A device of claims 2 and 4, wherein the micro processor comprises:

 a storage means for storing the brightness, contrast, and color temperature selected by the user, and for storing reference environmental values of brightness and
15 color temperature;

 a detection means for determining the environmental brightness and color temperature based upon the least two electrical signals from the sensor means;

 a comparator mean for calculating average environmental values of brightness and color temperature for a predetermined time period, and for comparing the average
20 environmental values to the reference environmental values stored in the storage unit to output compared values; and

 a control means for determining relative variances utilizing the compared values, and outputting control signals to automatically adjust the image by an amount based upon the determined relative variances and the brightness, contrast, and color
25 temperature selected by the user.

7. A device of claim 6, wherein the sensor means is arranged to output electrical signals of cyan and yellow; and said detection means is arranged to determine the environmental brightness by summing the outputs of cyan and yellow, and to

determine the environmental color temperature by taking the ratio of the output cyan to the output yellow.

5 8. A device of any preceding claim, wherein the video processor is arranged automatically to adjust at least one of the brightness, contrast and color temperature of an image if the user selects an auto-regulation mode.

10 9. A device of any preceding claim, wherein the video processor is arranged automatically to adjust at least one of the brightness and contrast of an image if the user selects an auto-regulation mode for brightness and contrast, and automatically adjusts the color temperature of an image if the user selects an auto-regulation mode for color temperature.

15 10. A device of any preceding claim, wherein the video processor is arranged automatically to adjust at least one of the brightness, contrast, and color temperature of an image by gradually increasing or decreasing the brightness, contrast and color temperature.

20 11. A method for automatically adjusting an image condition comprising:
(a) sensing an environmental brightness and environmental color temperature, and outputting sensed data;
(b) receiving and digitizing the sensed data to obtain the environmental brightness and environmental color temperature, and automatically
25 adjusting at least one of the brightness, contrast, and color temperature of an image utilising the obtained data in consideration of a respective brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by a user; and
(c) displaying the adjusted imaged on a display.

12. A method of claim 11, wherein in step (a), outputting the sensed data by at least two electrical signals; and in step (b) digitizing the at least two electrical signals to determine the environmental brightness and the color temperature.

5 13. A method of claim 12, wherein in step (a), outputting electrical signals of cyan and yellow; and in step (b), determining the environmental brightness by summing the outputs of cyan and yellow, and determining the environmental color temperature by taking the ratio of the output cyan to the output yellow.

10 14. A method of claim 12 or 13 wherein step (b) comprises:

(aa) storing at least one of the brightness, contrast and color temperature selected by the user;

15 (bb) determining at least one of the environmental brightness and color temperature, and determining respective relative variances of brightness, contrast and color temperature according to the determined environmental brightness and color temperature; and

20 (cc) outputting control signals to automatically adjust at least one of the brightness, contrast and color temperature of the image based upon the relative variances and the stored brightness, contrast and color temperature.

15. A method of claim 14, wherein step (b) further comprises:

amplifying a video signal according to the output control signals; and

25 processing the amplified video signal and displaying the processed video signal on the color display tube.

16. A method of claim 14, wherein step (bb) comprises:

storing at least one of the brightness, contrast, and color temperature selected by the user, and storing reference environmental values of brightness and color temperature;

determining the environmental brightness and color temperature based upon the at least two electrical signals;

calculating average environmental values of brightness and color temperature for a predetermined time period, and comparing the average environmental values to the stored reference environmental values to output compared values; and

determining relative variances utilizing the compared values, and outputting control signals to automatically adjust the image by an amount based upon the determined relative variances and the brightness, contrast, and color temperature selected by the user.

17. A method of claim 16, wherein the at least two electrical signals are cyan and yellow; and the environmental brightness is determined by summing the outputs of cyan and yellow, and the environmental color temperature is determined by taking the ratio of the output cyan to the output yellow.

18. A method of any of claims 11 to 17, wherein the brightness, contrast and/or color temperature of an image is automatically adjusted if the user selects and auto-regulation mode.

19. A method of any of claims 11 to 18, wherein the brightness and/or contrast of an image is automatically adjusted if the user selects an auto-regulation mode for brightness and contrast, and the color temperature of an image is automatically adjusted if the user selects an auto-regulation mode for color temperature.

20. A method of any of claims 11 to 19, wherein the brightness, contrast, and/or color temperature of an image is automatically adjusted by gradually increasing or decreasing the brightness, contrast and color temperature.

21. A method according to claim 11 and substantially as described with reference to Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

22. Apparatus according to claim 1 and substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 9914254.9
Claims searched: 1, 11

Examiner: Bill Riggs
Date of search: 22 December 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.Q): H4F (FGC, FGXX, FIJX, FHL, FHM)

Int CI (Ed.6): G09G (1/00, 1/16, 1/28, 5/10), H04N (5/58, 9/73)

Other: Online databases: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y, P	EP 0863677 A1 (LG Electronics Inc.) see whole doc.	1, 11
X	EP 0700218 A2 (LG Electronics Inc.) see whole doc.	1, 11
X	JP 10174017 (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.) see abstract	1, 11

20

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.